

REMARKS

Claims 27, 31 and 32 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 27-32 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as their invention. Particularly, the Examiner has argued that the statement "in case of displaying" is not clear.

In order to avoid this rejection, applicants have amended applicants' independent claims 27, 31 and 32 as above set forth. These amendments include deleting the phrase "in case of displaying". Applicants therefore believe that applicants' claims, as amended, are now in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 27-32 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Iwai, et al. (U.S. 5,175,681) patent. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claims 27, 31 and 32 are directed to an apparatus, method and program storage medium for accumulating and displaying information of the technical documents related to a certain patent application. More particularly, applicant's independent claims recite displaying a list of technical documents of a patent application and a corresponding foreign patent application of said patent application.

Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. More particularly, the Examiner relies on FIG. 24, Col. 6, lines 1-67 and Col. 24, lines 44-53 of the Iwai, et al. patent in arguing that the Iwai, et al. patent discloses this claimed feature. However, applicants submit that these passages, like the other passages in the in the Takei patent cited by the Examiner, simply do not teach or suggest displaying a list of technical documents of a patent application and a corresponding foreign patent application of said patent application.

Particularly, FIG. 24 of the Iwai, et al. patent, discussed at Col. 24, lines 44-53, shows a letter output menu from which a user may select a desired letter to be prepared by a letter processing routine. As can be clearly seen from the figure, there is nothing shown which can in any way be equated to teaching or suggesting displaying a list of technical documents of a patent application and a corresponding foreign patent application of said patent application. Moreover, Col. 6, lines 1-67, of the Takei patent disclose that the "stored file data includes history data showing the history of the preparation and prosecution and current status of the applications" (Col. 6, lines 6-8). Such a general statement is also clearly not a teaching or suggestion of displaying a list of technical documents of a patent application and a corresponding foreign patent application of said patent application.

As indicated in applicants' previous Amendment filed on September 24, 2003 on page 11, the Takei patent mentions in Col. 9, lines 21-30, that a "case page may include data identifying family applications so that the family applications may be easily accessed." This teaching, however, also is not a teaching or suggestion of displaying a list of technical documents of a patent application and a corresponding foreign patent application of said patent application.

Applicants' amended independent claims 27, 31 and 32, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite such feature, thus patentably distinguish over the Iwai, et al. patent.

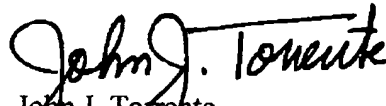
In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application, a request is made that the Examiner telephone applicants' counsel at (212) 682-9640.

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Respectfully submitted,

ROBIN BLECKER & DALEY
330 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10017
T (212) 682-9640


John J. Torrente
Reg. No. 26359
Attorney of Record